

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 04655 272252Z

12

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 261002Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 964

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 4655

EXDIS

DEPT PASS CINCPAC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR KN IR ABRAD

SUBJECT: ROKG ATTEMPTING TO THWART IRANIAN-NORTH KOREAN DEAL

REF: A STATE 148157 B STATE 145922

1. MOFA ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS KIM TONG-HWI INFORMED POL COUNS JUNE 26 OF REPORTS THAT ROKG HAD FROM ITS EMBASSY IN TEHRAN REGARDING IRANINA PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH NORTH KOREA.

2. ACCORDING TO ROKG EMBASSY INFORMATION, IRAN AND NORTH KOREA HAD SIGNED AN AGREEMENT ACCORDING TO WHICH TEHRAN WILL BUY \$700 MILLION WORTH OF NORTH KOREAN MERCHANDISE. MOFA ASSUMES DEAL COVERS AT LEAST A FIVE YEAR PERIOD; IT IS UNAWARE OF THE NATURE OF THE GOODS INVOLVED. AS PART OF THE DEAL, THE IRANIANS HAVE AGREED TO GIVE PYONGYANG AN ADVANCE CASH PAYMENT OF \$200 MILLION.

3. KIM SAID THAT DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER NAM TOK-U WHO IS NOW IN PARIS WOULD VISIT TEHRAN JULY 4-9 IN AN EFFORT TO HAVE DEAL CANCELLED OR, FAILING THAT, TO CANCEL OR AT LEAST DELAY ADVANCE PAYMENT. KIM
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SPECULATED THAT ROK WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY BE ABLE

TO SUPPLY IRAN WITH ANYTHING WHICH NORTH KOREA WAS OFFERING AND WOULD NOT REQUIRE ANY ADVANCE TO DO SO. HE NOTED THAT ANY ADVANCE PAYMENT TO NORTH KOREA WOULD HELP BAIL PYONGYANG OUT OF ITS FOREIGN DEBT DIFFICULTIES.

4. KIM SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ANY DETAILS CONCERNING DEAL WHICH USG HAS BEEN ABLE TO DEVELOP AND ANY SUGGESTIONS ON STEPS WHICH ROKG AND DEPUTY MINISTER NAM MIGHT TAKE TO THWART ITS IMPLEMENTATION. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION WHICH DEPARTMENT OR EMBASSY TEHRAN CONSIDERS APPROPRIATE TO PASS TO ROKG. SNEIDER

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CINCPAC.

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